



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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1. Introduction

Energypedia UG hosts www.energypedia.info, a wiki-based platform for collaborative knowledge exchange on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the context of development cooperation. By offering user-friendly tools, we enable stakeholders engaged in the energy sector to share their practical experience and to collaborate worldwide. Securing access to modern and sustainable energy services in developing countries is among the most important challenges for development.

In 2019, energypedia.info continued to play an important role in sharing knowledge and experience on clean, sustainable and renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries. With **4,725** articles contributed by an increasing community of **9,920** registered users, as of December 2019, our outreach is constantly growing.

With the help of our donors, supporters and the global community of energypedia users and contributors, we will continue to advocate for the removal of knowledge barriers and the diffusion of information to achieve universal and sustainable energy access for all.

Thank you all for your commitment to our shared mission and for giving your time, skills and knowledge to energypedia!

1.1 Vision and approach

Vision

A world where everyone has access to sustainable energy services.

Mission

Our mission is to empower energy practitioners by fostering free knowledge exchange, global collaboration and mutual learning on renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access.

Energypedia provides an online platform to collect and disseminate free, relevant and high quality information. Our user-friendly tool allows experts to write about and share their experiences.

1.2 Scope of the report

Scope	This annual report gives an overview on all activities carried out by nonprofit energypedia UG (haftungsbeschränkt) and the achieved results in 2019.
Reporting period	Reporting period is the calendar year 2019, thus from the 1 st of January to 31 st December.
Application of SRS	<p>This is the sixth time energypedia uses the Social Reporting Standard. The report is based on the SRS version from 2014.</p> <p>The SRS is published by the Social Reporting Initiative (SRI) e.V. Association under the Creative Commons license BY-ND 3.0</p>
Contact persons	<p>Managing director Robert Heine (Robert.heine@energypedia.info)</p> <p>Managing director Johanna Hartmann (johanna.hartmann@energypedia.info)</p>

2. Fighting energy poverty through knowledge exchange

2.1 The social problem – energy poverty and development

Access to sustainable energy services can power opportunities for environmental, social and economic development. Yet, today one in five people worldwide lack access to electricity, while every third person cooks on unhealthy open fireplaces and traditional stoves. The lack of energy is also affecting small and medium-sized enterprises as well as public facilities that depend on reliable and affordable energy supplies.¹

Without sufficient energy services, people are unable to cook their food, heat their homes or store their medications in a cool place, not to mention learning and reading in the evening. Taking part in economic or political processes via modern communication channels likewise remains impossible.²

Poor access to sustainable energy services not only has negative economic and ecological impacts on societies and the environment, but also on people's health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the acrid smokes from traditional cookstoves and fuels resulted in almost 4 million deaths in 2016.³

In times of climate change, it is also of the utmost importance to make energy supply sustainable. Energy-saving technologies and the use of renewable energy sources can really make a difference in developing countries. Furthermore, in remote areas a decentralized energy supply using renewable sources such as sun, wind, water or wood and other biomass will remain the only option for the next decades as national grids are unlikely to be expanded to these regions.⁴

Both, granting people access to modern and climate-friendly energy sources and promoting energy efficiency is therefore a key challenge of the 21st century, as highlighted by the United Nations (UN), declaring 2014-2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.⁵

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, also puts emphasis on sustainable energy and energy access. **Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7)**, stresses the importance of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.⁶ Furthermore, energy is relevant also for the achievement of a number of other SDGs, such as poverty, health, climate, education, and gender.⁷

However, there is still a lack of first-hand knowledge on modern and sustainable energy solutions when it comes to their sustainable diffusion in developing countries.⁸ This knowledge often only exists locally or in single implementing organizations and is thus difficult to access for individuals or even other organizations and governments. There is a great need to facilitate and expand the diffusion of these technologies in developing countries through practical knowledge exchange and collaboration, not only from developed to developing countries but also among developing countries. This knowledge should be freely accessible and thus cross-sectoral cooperation potentials should be promoted.

¹ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/climate-and-disaster-resilience/sustainable-energy/energy-access/>

² International Energy Agency (2017): Energy Access Outlook 2017. From Poverty to Prosperity. World Energy Outlook Special Report. https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2017SpecialReport_EnergyAccessOutlook.pdf

³ WHO (2018): Factsheet on Household Air Pollution and Health. <http://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>. WHO Global Health Observatory Data: Household air pollution in 2016. http://www.who.int/gho/phe/indoor_air_pollution/en/

⁴ IRENA (2018): Off-grid renewable energy solutions. https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2018/Jul/IRENA_Off-grid_RE_Solutions_2018.pdf. Sustainable Energy for All (2015): Progress Toward Sustainable Energy 2015. Global Tracking Framework Report. <https://www.seforall.org/sites/default/files/I/2013/09/GTF-2105-Full-Report.pdf>

⁵ United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024. A/RES/67/215: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/215

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

⁷ Energy and the Sustainable Development Goals. Energypedia: https://energypedia.info/wiki/Energy_and_the_Sustainable_Development_Goals#Energy_and_other_SDGs

⁸ E/CN.17/2001/19 - Report on the 9th Decision on International Cooperation for an Enabling Environment. See recommendation 29. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/energy/decisions>

⁹ Samuel Chisa Dike (2018): Adequate Education and information sharing: Key to attaining access to sustainable energy. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323551131_ADEQUATE_EDUCATION_AND_INFORMATION_SHARING_KEY_TO_ATTAINING_ACCESS_TO_SUSTAINABLE_ENERGY

„Grundsätzlich gilt: Alle im Auftrag einer Kooperation entstandenen Informationsprodukte oder Standards sollten für alle Kooperationspartner gemeinsames Eigentum und für alle Interessenvertreterinnen und -vertreter frei zugänglich sein. Das Ziel sollte es sein, offenen Zugang zu Informationen und offene, gemeinsame Wissensproduktion zu ermöglichen. So entstehen gemeinsam entwickelte und neue Informations- und Wissensprodukte, sogenannte „Wissensallmende“ (wie Wikipedia, Energypedia etc.).“ (BMZ) ¹⁰



In recent years, **knowledge sharing** has become a core component of achieving the goals of SDGs, alongside the provision of financial and technical support. The exchange of knowledge is an effective means for professionals to

- Learn from each other what works and what doesn't, so that the trial and error process can be shortened and the wheel does not have to be reinvented
- Catalyse innovative solutions by sharing ideas and knowledge on specific topics
- Replicate and extend successful solutions
- Promote cooperation across regions and themes for an integrative exchange of knowledge - also in South-South cooperation.

The direct exchange of knowledge between energy experts can also unfold at institutional and systemic level and influence developments there. It is therefore crucial to strengthen the capacity for knowledge exchange so that the core knowledge can be identified, captured and shared in order to expand energy projects that work at the national and international level.¹¹

The general need for partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector is also reflected in SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals, which i.e. targets at enhancing “North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing...”.¹²

2.2 Solution attempts made to date

There is no institutionalized structure in place for sharing knowledge and practical expertise about renewable energy and energy efficiency across individuals from different organizations, institutions, private sector, and academia on local, national and international levels. Thus, besides sporadic conferences or workshops, there are few possibilities for practitioners, experts and scientists to directly exchange experience, new findings and lessons learnt regarding sustainable energy access.

2.3 The solution – connecting people and knowledge

Recognizing that development in the 21st century requires that all actors have access to information, energypedia is using Web 2.0 technologies to remove knowledge barriers and expand the diffusion of information on how universal and sustainable energy access for all can be achieved.

Through hosting the platform www.energypedia.info, we strive to create the right environment and provide the right tools for stakeholders engaged in the energy sector to collaborate, create and share knowledge and practical experience.

www.energypedia.info is a wiki platform offering free access to expert information on renewables, energy access and energy efficiency in developing countries. All content on energypedia is open source, meaning everyone can use it freely as long as the author and the source are acknowledged.

¹⁰ BMZ (2019): [Toolkit 2.0 - Digitalisierung in der EZ](#) 2.0; page 158. Translation: “As a general rule, all information products or standards developed on behalf of a cooperation should be jointly owned by all cooperation partners and freely accessible to all stakeholders. The goal should be to enable open access to information and open, joint knowledge production. In this way, jointly developed and new information and knowledge products, so-called “knowledge almende” (such as Wikipedia, Energypedia, etc.) are created.”

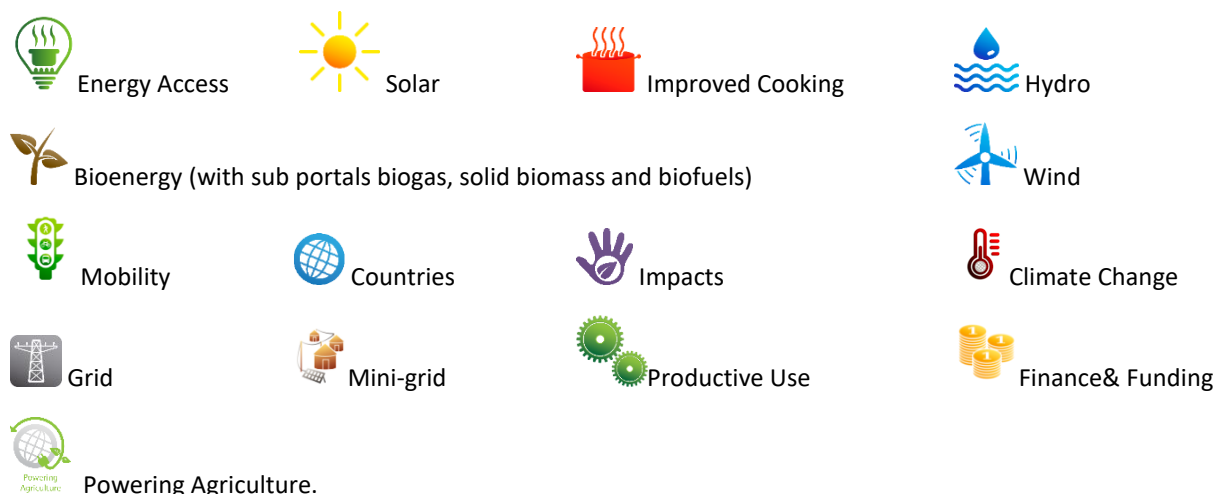
¹¹ World Bank: The Art of Knowledge Exchange. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29355>

¹² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

All visitors of the site can freely access and read articles and content on energypedia. Once registered, users can also easily create, modify and share content and all their contributions will directly be accessible online. In this way, energypedia supports the necessary international knowledge exchange between experts and practitioners in civil society, academia, the public as well as the private sector. Thus, energypedia not only facilitate knowledge exchange between industrial and developing countries, but also promotes the direct exchange of experience among people in developing countries.

Most information on energypedia is clustered into portals, which serve as an entry point to the interested readers. A wide range of topics is covered by the portals, i.e. from solar energy to hydro, biogas, improved cooking, impacts, and country-related information.

As of end 2019, the following portals were online:



Further highlights include Pico PV database, Cooking Energy Compendium, International Fuel Prices, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Resource Center, and Micro-Hydro Library.

We believe: knowledge sharing is power!

Did you know?

Wikis are websites that can be modified by users without any programming expertise. The best known and most successful example is Wikipedia.

Energypedia uses the open-source software Mediawiki, which is also used by Wikipedia. All articles and files shared on energypedia are published under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0 Unported License](#) (CC-BY-SA) and the [GNU Free Documentation License](#) (GFDL).

2.3.1 Work performed (output) and direct target groups

Our direct target groups are people worldwide who are dealing with energy access issues in developing countries. This includes energy experts and practitioners who are active in the field, academics and researchers, government officials as well as the general interested public and other stakeholders. Users of energypedia come from public and private sectors as well as from civil society and academia.

To offer them a platform for knowledge exchange and for fostering the spread of renewables in developing countries, energypedia UG hosts and maintains the free wiki platform www.energypedia.info. This includes not only providing the technical infrastructure and further IT development and handling the whole registration process of users, but also means giving support to our community. We constantly give feedback to authors on how to improve the quality of their articles in terms of formatting, structuring and tagging the content. We try to engage users via our newsletter and social media channels, and we offer tutorials on how to work on energypedia. The latter is done via email, phone, skype and tutorial videos.

We also provide information on relevant events, jobs and opportunities on our platform and via the monthly newsletter. In addition, we constantly try to increase our reach and expand our offer by cooperating with relevant networks, organizations and institutions.

Furthermore, we participate in events and conferences to inform people: a) about the relevance of energy access and the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries, and b) about energypedia's offer to energy experts and other interested stakeholders.

Over the past years, we have continuously grown, both in terms of content and in terms of reach.

2.3.2 Intended results (outcome/impact) on direct and indirect target groups

By doing all the work described above, we aim to achieve the following results:

First, we want to make stakeholders aware of energypedia.info and the options it offers for worldwide knowledge exchange on sustainable energy in developing countries.

Second, we want to enable our target groups to use energypedia in the best way and to exchange their knowledge and experience with other energy experts / academics / researchers / stakeholders.

The assumption behind this is that once people start sharing their knowledge, they can learn from each other in terms of both what works and what not in supporting energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries. Using web 2.0 tools offers a much wider exchange also across national, regional, organizational or even sectoral boundaries than conventional tools used within organizations, workshops or conferences.

Further, we expect people to use the knowledge, which they gained on energypedia in their own work. Ultimately, by supporting knowledge sharing, we aim to contribute to reducing energy poverty by making access to renewable energy and energy efficient technologies widely available. Thus, our indirect target groups are people, institutions and small and medium enterprises in developing countries lacking access to energy. We are aware of the difficulty of finding robust evidence to show our impact on these indirect target groups.

2.3.3 Presentation of the impact logic

Target groups	Work performed (output)	Use of output	Expected results (outcome)	Higher aggregated results (Impacts)
Energy experts / practitioners with focus on developing countries	<p>Running of collaborative wiki platform www.energypedia.info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of new users • Answering questions from users • Supporting users and giving feedback on articles • Solving IT problems • Wiki gardening (restructuring, tagging, quality control) • Webinars and trainings on how to use energypedia (online, skype, telephone, emails) <p>Participation at national and international energy / development events to inform target groups about renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries and about the offer of energypedia in this context.</p> <p>Providing target groups with relevant news about energy issues in developing countries (newsletter, use of social media, publications)</p> <p>Engaging with international networks and alliances</p> <p>Building-up a cooperation with universities, organizations and institutions, provide them with relevant information and offer them the possibility to document conferences and other events on energypedia.info</p>	<p>Energypedia is well known and used by target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unique visitors of the platform increases • Number of registered users increases • Number of cooperation increases • Publications and articles referring to energypedia as a source of information <p>Visitors and registered users are satisfied with content of platform</p>	<p>Users know how to work on energypedia, write new articles and edit existing ones</p> <p>Users exchange their experience on energypedia and learn from each other</p> <p>Users know more about renewables, energy efficiency and energy access in developing countries</p> <p>People use their knowledge from energypedia in own projects / research</p>	<p>More people in developing countries get access to sustainable energy (renewable energy, energy efficiency)</p> <p>Energy poverty is reduced</p>
Academics / Researchers				
People working for NGOs, companies, governments and other institutions, who deal with energy issues in developing countries				

3. Resources, Work Performed and Results

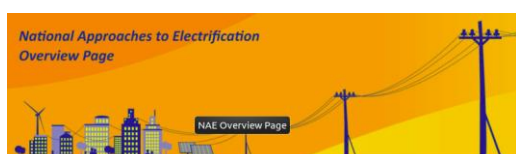
3.1 Resources used (input)

In 2019, our personnel expenses have been 65,500 € and operating costs sum to the amount of 8,350 € (materials, insurances, bookkeeping, travel costs, etc.). Not only have we used the skills and expertise of our staff for promoting energy access in developing countries, we also have drawn on the knowledge of our energypedia community that contributed voluntarily a lot of content to the platform and to our newsletters. Our online platform energypedia.info runs on the open source software mediawiki, thus no licenses are used.

3.2 Work performed (output)

Running of the collaborative online wiki platform www.energypedia.info

- Technical hosting and maintenance of the platform
- We handled the registration process of 971 new users, thus, on average, each working day 4 people registered successfully
- We answered questions of registered users and visitors - be it on how to use the platform or on renewable energy issues
- We gave constant support to our users on how to write, upload and link content (mainly via email).
- We gave feedback on articles written by our community.
- Constant wiki gardening was carried out to keep the quality of content high and to improve accessibility of articles. This included tagging / categorization of untagged or insufficient tagged articles and PDFs.
- Furthermore, we identified outdated articles and deleted or updated them with consent from the original authors.
- Own research, writing and dissemination of articles and other content on renewables and energy efficiency in developing countries, e. g. on ISO standards for Improved Cookstoves, Market distortions and development cooperation, Fuel stacking, Cooking solutions: Biogas, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Electricity, Ethanol, Natural Gas and Solar (BLEENS), multi-tier Framework and Scaling up Clean Household energy, and more. Furthermore, we updated intensively the country pages of [Namibia](#), [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Zambia](#), [India](#), [Suriname](#) and [Gabon](#).
- In 2019, 51 new enquiries about renewable energy and energy efficiency were received; a total of 45 enquiries were answered; 36 enquiries were answered by the energypedia.info community in the discussion thread, while another 9 enquiries were successfully processed by the energypedia team and resulted in new, larger articles.
- Since mid-2019, energypedia hosts the [National Approaches to Electrification – Review of Options](#). Dashboard and case studies allow to click through many regulation options for electrification regulators. The review was prepared by Mary Willcox and Dean Cooper of Practical Action Consulting working with Hadley Taylor, Silvia Cabriolu-Poddu and Christina Stuart of the EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEIPDF) and Michael Koeberlein and Caspar Priesemann of the Energising Development Programme (EnDev).



Category Dashboard

Technology	Delivery Model	Legal Basis	Price/Tariff Regulation	Finance	Non-Financial Interventions
Grid Extension	Public	Concession	Uniform	Private	Direct Energy Access Provision
Grid-Connected Mini-Grid/Distribution System	Private (Non-Government)	License	Individual	User	Institutional Restructuring
Isolated Mini-Grid				Grants & Subsidies	Regulatory Reform
Standalone Systems	Public-Private Partnership	Unregulated		Cross-Subsidies	Policy & Target Setting
				Tax Exemptions	Quality & Technical Standards
				Guarantees	Technical Assistance
					Capacity Building & Awareness Raising
					Market Information
					Demand Promotion
					Technology Development & Adoption
					National Energy Planning

- **Energypedia User Survey:** In June 2019, we conducted our third biennial user survey to better understand the ways energypedia is used by the community and how we can make it more useful and user friendly for the community. The survey covered the following research questions:
 - What is the energypedia user demographics?
 - How and for what purposes do people use energypedia?
 - What impact does energypedia have in their work?
 - What is their level of satisfaction with energypedia?
 - What motivates the users to get actively involved in the energypedia community?
 - What should energypedia focus on in the future?

A survey link was included on our website, sent via emails to all our registered users as well as spread via our communication channels such as newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. 95 people took part in the survey and gave us their valuable feedback. Read about the results in chapter 3.3.

Participation at national and international events

To inform our target groups about renewable energy, energy access, and energy efficiency in developing countries and to promote knowledge sharing, we participated in the following conferences and workshops:

- In April, we gave a presentation about our work to over 15 students from different engineering and/or energy background at the Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg in Cottbus, Germany.
- In May, we attended the 2019 Global Festival of Action organized by the UN SDG in Bonn, Germany. We not only had a booth to showcase our work but also facilitated an interactive activity called Energy quiz in our booth. The visitors could take part in this quiz and test their knowledge of SDG7. More than 71 people took the quiz physically and the page views online went up from 1053 to 1356.
- In June, we attended the Intersolar 2019 including the Off-grid power forum and an event organized by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It gave us visibility in the off-grid sector as well as a chance to present energypedia at the BSW Booth.
- In June, we attended the Asia Clean Energy Forum 2019 and interacted with prospective partners for joint knowledge sharing.
- We gave a presentation about our work at the African Mini-Grids Community of Practice (AMG-CoP) meeting held in Berlin, Germany in June.
- We attended the EU Development Days in Brussels in June to network with other experts and share information about our platform.
- In August, we presented energypedia to a group of Vietnamese solar experts in Bonn, Germany.
- Furthermore, we attended the Conference of Parties, COP25 in Madrid, Spain in December. We also documented the most relevant energy side events on energypedia and interacted with other energy experts during the event.

Provide target groups with relevant news

In 2019, we carried on with our **social media** engagement (Facebook, twitter, LinkedIn) in order to promote knowledge and experience exchange, spread news about energypedia, energy sector news as well as news from other organizations regarding renewables in developing countries. The following table lists our followers in 2019:

Facebook	Twitter	LinkedIn	Newsletter
1,967	1,629	718	5,400

To this end, we also publish our monthly „[Energypedia Newsletter](#)“, containing information e.g. about new content on energypedia, relevant publications in the renewable energy sector, relevant news from other organizations and countries, as well as latest energy events, jobs, and opportunities.

Cooperation

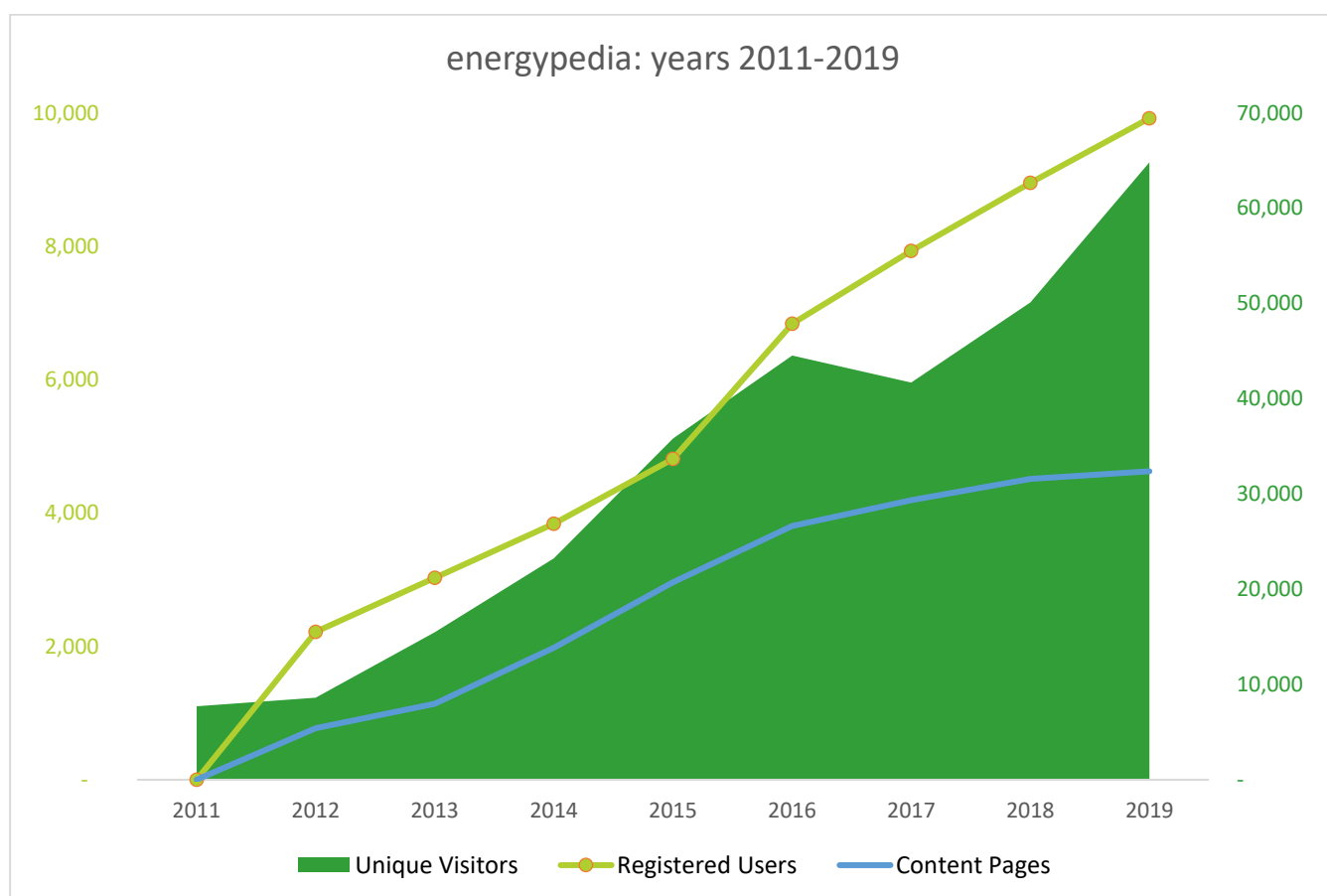
In 2019, we cooperated with the following organizations and initiatives in order to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience as well as research on energy issues in developing countries.

- From March to December, jointly with our partners WISIONs and HPNET, we organized a four-part Mini-grid Webinar series focusing on different aspects of micro-hydro based mini-grids. The webinar documentation including the video is hosted on energypedia and the page has been viewed over 8,300 times.
- Along with The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we organized four webinars on Sustainable Energy in Humanitarian Settings to raise awareness and spread knowledge about different technologies, best practices and impacts in the humanitarian setting. This six-part webinar series had on average 100 attendees for each webinar and is continued in 2020. The webinar documentation page has been viewed over 26,400 times.
- ACCESS Coalition and energypedia jointly organized a webinar on “Energy Access: the role of civil society in the area of productive uses”. This webinar had over 69 attendees and the documentation page was viewed over 4,900 times.
- Along with GIZ Mexico Climate, we developed a portal on mutual learning and exchange of information on climate change, among municipalities in Mexico. This portal is called Programas Municipales de Cambio Climático (PMCC) and is in Spanish language. We also hosted several training webinars on how to use the portal.
- We became a media partner to the Solar DIY Training Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya in March and promoted the event via our communication channels. The documentation was done on energypedia.
- Jointly with Efficiency for Access, Powering Agriculture and Shell Foundation, we organized a twitter chat on efficient off-grid agricultural technologies. This twitter chat had 5.5 million impressions, 1,171 engagements, 955 likes, 51 comments, 476 shares.
- We became a supporting partner to the International Conference on Solar Technologies & Hybrid Mini Grids to improve energy access, which will be held in Mallorca, Spain in 2020. We promoted this event via our communication channels.
- Partnered with the Rainforest Partnership for mutual promotion of content.
- We collaborated with the project Rural Electrification in Africa: Understanding Longitudinal Impact to Inform Policy, Delivery Model and Investment Innovation (REAL) and wrote a letter of support for this program.

Please read more about our partnerships, cooperation and networks in chapter 5.3.

3.3 Results achieved (outcome/impact)

Overall, numbers are raising. The number of articles increased by 214 to 4,725; the number of unique visitors per month went up from slightly above 50,000 in 2018 to 64,500 in 2019, with a maximum in November of over 76,000. Similarly, the number of visits and page views are again higher than the two last years.



Key Figures	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Registered Users****	2,216	3,029	4,174	5,378	6,836	7,932	8,949	9,920
Unique visitors/month*	8,612	15,471	23,220	35,825	45,290	41,697	50,093	64,812
Active users/month**	33	34	38	39	46	41	42	37
Visits per year	135,775	228,034	347,167	536,134	673,926	639,037	768,603	988,875
Articles***	771	1,138	2,291	2,961	3,806	4,190	4,511	4,725
Page Views per year	352,376	480,365	716,831	1,097,816	1,260,495	1,141,133	1,294,633	1,651,884
Files****	2,927	3,675	4,994	5,806	6,719	8,165	9,449	10,332
Downloads per year	13,257	25,671	48,880	80,066	102,211	108,545	133,806	172,827

* Unique visitors per month on average. The unique visitor number counts the number of individuals who access energypedia within each month.

** Active users per month on average. Active users are all users who performance any kind of activity.

*** Articles are all content pages contributed by users on renewable energy topics, numbers are accumulative.

**** accumulative numbers since energypedia.info was set up

3.5 Provisions taken for the accompanying evaluation and quality assurance

Evaluation and quality assurance within energypedia has several facets.

On an organizational level, we use an internal wiki to organize our work and for our own knowledge management. Within that frame, we also have an operations manual defining key processes and responsibilities. Furthermore, we have planning workshops, weekly meetings and we usually discuss urgent issues within the team on a day-to-day basis.

Regarding the monitoring and evaluation of our platform energypedia.info we use Matomo (former Piwik) and Heatmaps to collect data on key performance indicators such as unique visitors, visitors' countries, referring websites, bounce rate, most visited pages, etc. With wiki software inherent statistics, the number of registered users and active users as well as the number of content pages are collected. We analyze this data on a monthly basis.

When it comes to the quality assurance of articles on energypedia, we have a two-fold approach: on the one hand, we make sure that articles fulfill certain formatting and layout standards and are not commercial advertisement pieces. We give authors and editors any support they need in order to make the best of their articles. On the other hand, we follow the wiki philosophy that registered users can edit whatever they want. We do not want to judge on the content of their articles as we assume they are the experts on the specific topic they are writing about. Therefore, we also try to encourage our community to participate in quality assurance in terms of updating information, adding relevant content, deleting wrong or outdated information and discussing controversial issues.

Results and Key Findings of User Survey

As described in chapter 3.2, we conducted our third biennial user survey to know more about the usage of energypedia and its impacts on our users.

Results are very positive and encouraging. 82% of respondents are either very satisfied or satisfied with energypedia's overall services (an increase of 2% in comparison to 2017). Out of the total 95 respondents, 64 already have an energypedia user account.

Most respondents are based in Africa (61%), North America (13%) and Asia (8%). They also mostly work in nonprofit sector (36%) followed by the private sector (27%) and research (20%). Regarding the use of the platform, most respondents use it to keep themselves updated about the latest development in the sector, followed by drawing up lessons to further improve their projects.

72% said that the information on energypedia is easy to find, which is a testimonial to our efforts of making the platform user-friendly. Solar, Energy Access and Climate Change were the top topics identified by the users.

The survey results also suggested that we should focus on facilitating collaboration among all users (board-messaging, groups, discussions) and also facilitate information about the energy sector (Newsletter, Group Mails, monthly notification alerts).

For a more detailed report and analysis of the survey results please refer to [this page on energypedia](#).

Some example quotes by users from different countries:

Thanks to energypedia, me or my organization had the following positive impacts:

- "I got different new knowledges from energypedia and of course updated my little knowledge on energy. I hope one day I will get a potential donor which will help our vision (eliminating household energy poverty in Ethiopia through clean and safe alternatives) on this site."
- "Edification on current topics in Renewable Energy Technology. You are just amazing at Energypedia."
- "The fact that we have updated literature on the subject of renewable energies, which helps to prepare proposals with technical and scientific support."
- "The information posted in the energypedia has been used as knowledge base for preparing our renewable energy projects."
- "My business is now involved in renewable energy projects."

3.6 Previous year comparison: Objectives achieved, learning experience and success

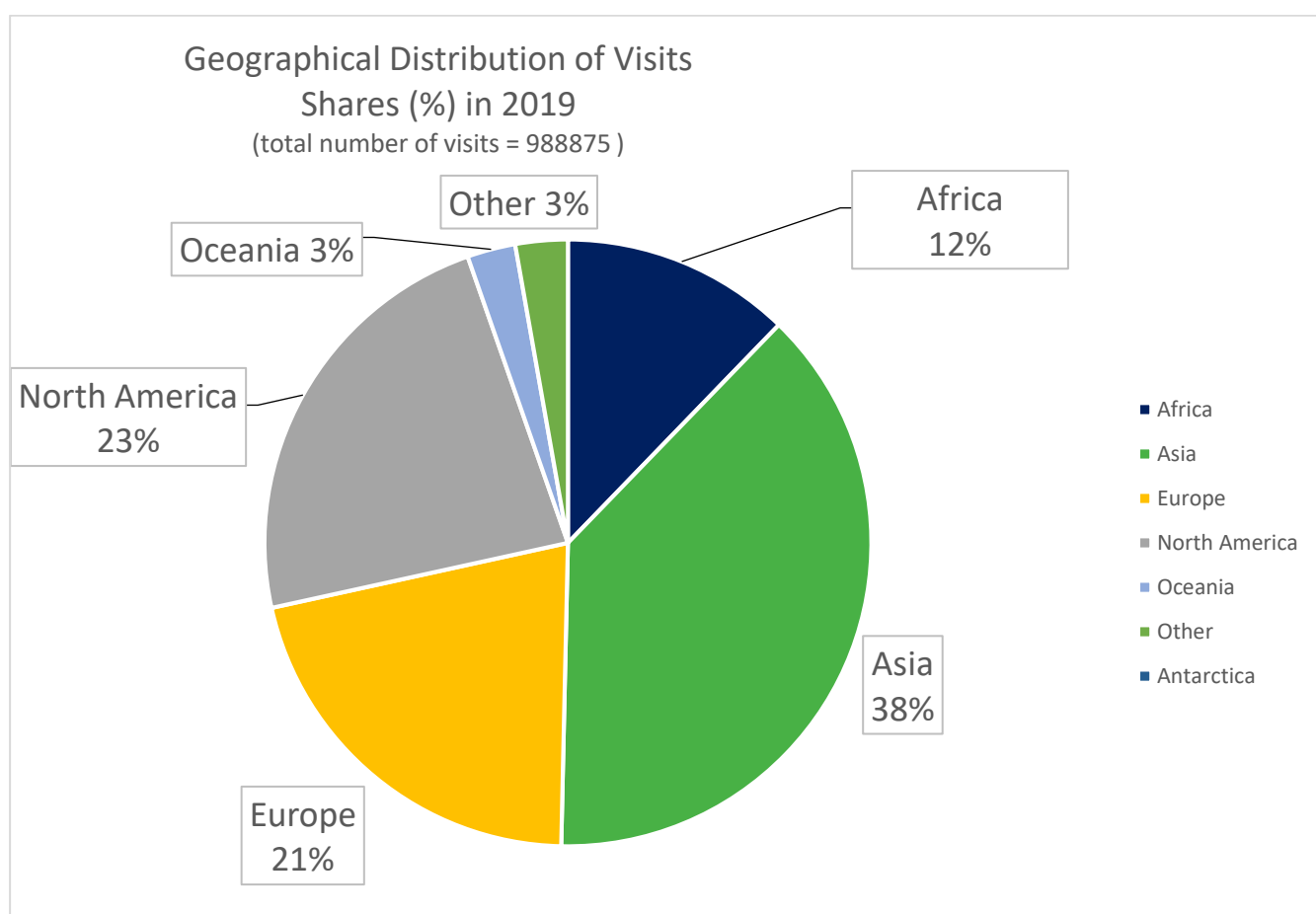
Our targets for 2019 included the following points:

- To keep the level of 50,000 unique visitors per month in 2019
- Keep on increasing the participation of users from around the world and encourage them to become active contributors of knowledge
- To increase the number of articles (as a result of getting more people actively involved)
- Develop new knowledge products like new portals or database
- Secure funding in and beyond 2019

3.6.a More Readers: Unique visitors

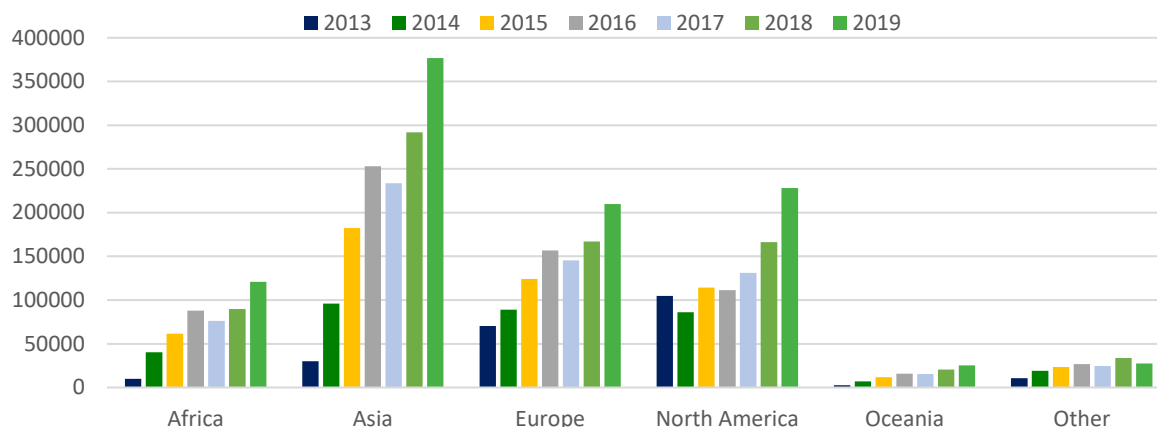
Global coverage

People from around the world looked up articles on energypedia: 230 distinct countries covered. The majority of visitors came from Asia, but the numbers of visitors in all geographical areas grew compared to 2018.



Where Do Our Visitors Come From?

Geographical Distribution of energypedia Visits



Popularity of the page energypedia.info (in February 2019)

In comparison to similar pages on the internet, energypedia ranks third after International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Other wiki projects like Susana.org and other pages providing information on energy and energy access like seforall.org or Africa-eu-renewables.org or worldenergy.org rank way below. The audience overlap score indicates that this page might have a similar audience like energypedia.

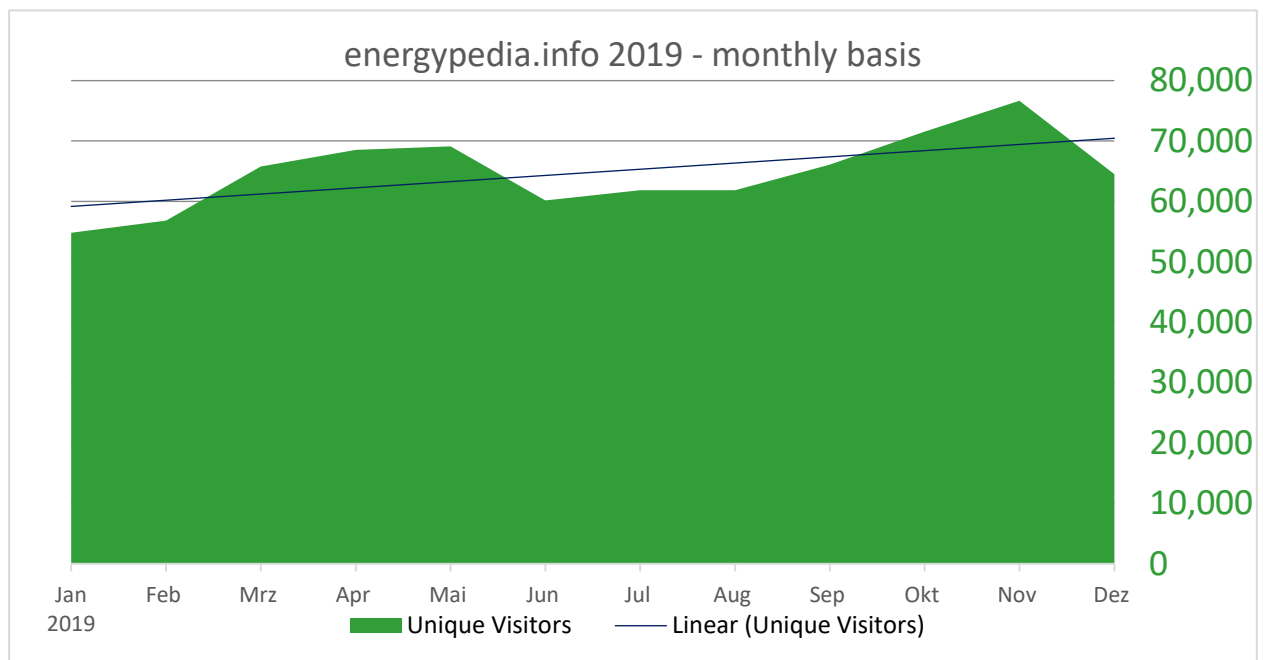
Alexa Rank (rough overview of the popularity of websites: www.alexa.com)¹³

Webseite	Alexa Rank	Audience overlap Score
iea.org	51,946	9
irena.org	132,825	11
energypedia.info	150,843	
worldenergy.org	244,052	7
homebiogas.com	360,800	8
Susana.org	380,454	
ren21.net	397,183	
seforall.org	706,105	
Esmap.org	781,968	
cleancookingalliance.org	1,085,351	
gogla.org	1,189,278	
africa-eu-renewables.org	1,485,947	7
access-coalition.org	13,965,483	
efficiencyforaccess.org	3,168,465	

¹³ Alexa Rank is an estimate of this site's popularity. The rank is calculated using a combination of average daily visitors to this site and page views on this site over the past 3 months. The site with the highest combination of visitors and page views is ranked #1. This chart shows the Alexa Rank trend for this site over a trailing 90 day period.

Monthly unique visitors: monthly 50,000 unique visitors

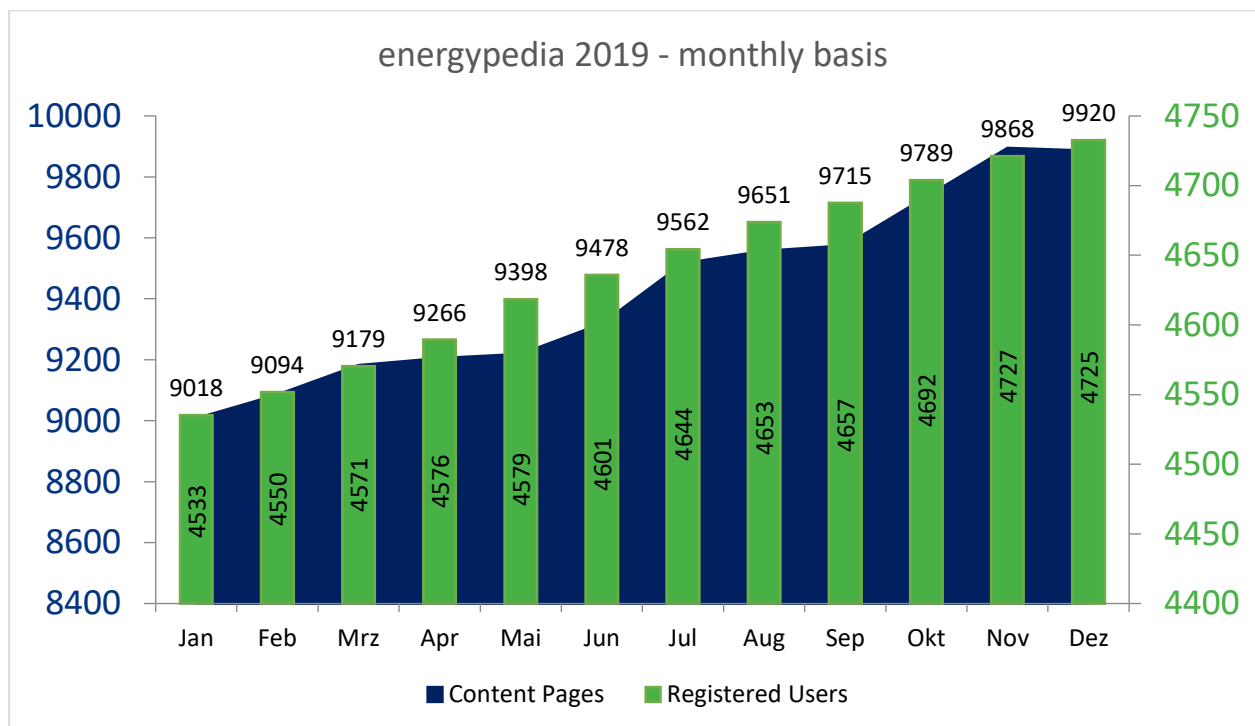
We reached our target, as on average there were 64,813 unique visitors each month. Therefore, we could even increase the number of unique visitors from the 2018 when the average has been 50,011.



3.6.b Increase the participation of active energypedia users

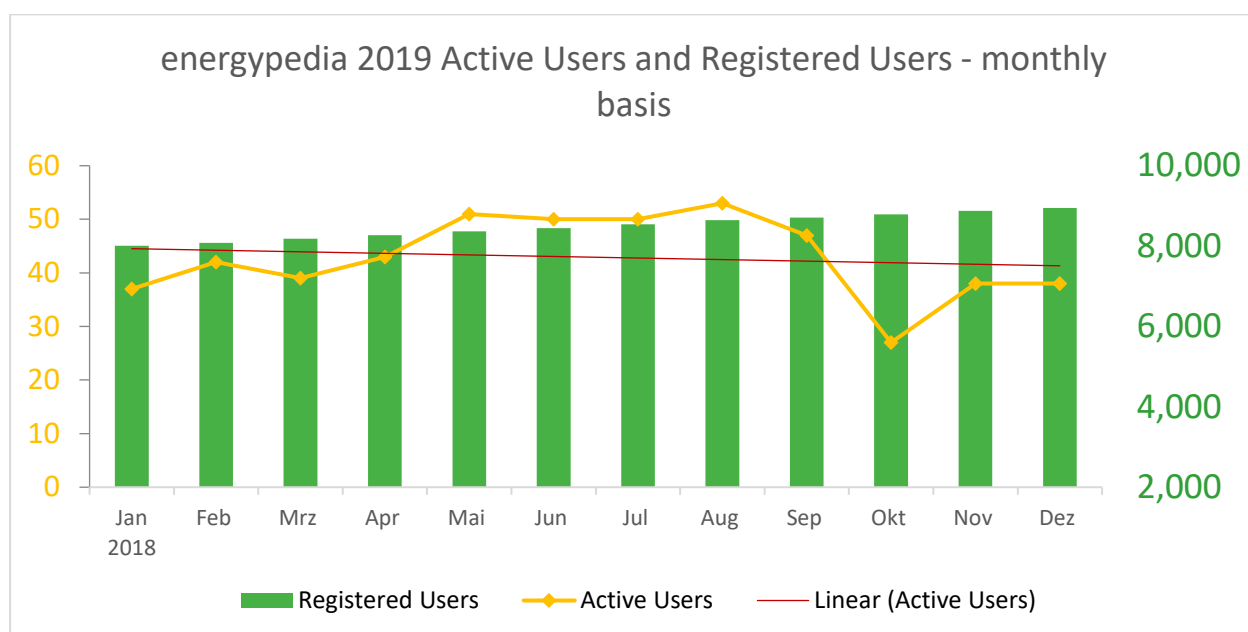
Registrations

The number of registered users increased by 971 people, from 8,949 at the end of 2018 to 9,920 at the end of 2019. This equals 4 new registrations per working day.



Active users

The number of people active per month varied between 29 and 52, leading to a monthly average of 37 active people in 2019 (2018: 37; 2017: 41; 2016: 46). Thus, we did not achieve our target of increasing the number of people editing on energypedia considerably.



3.6.c Increase the number of articles on energypedia

As shown in figure above, the number of articles on energypedia increased steadily (content pages in dark blue on the previous page), from 4,511 in December 2018 to 4,725 at the end of 2019. That means, in 2019, 214 articles had been written. The number of articles increased by 321 in 2018, while in 2017 384 were written.

3.6.d New Knowledge Products

We achieved this goal as we created the following knowledge products in 2019:

- Sustainable Energy in Humanitarian Settings: 6 part webinar series on humanitarian-energy topics, with 4 webinars in 2019 and 2 in 2020.
- Mini-grid Webinar series to raise awareness about micro-hydro based mini-grids.
- Webinar on “Energy Access: the role of civil society in the area of productive uses.
- [National Approaches to Electrification – Review of Options.](#)
- Programas Municipales de Cambio Climático (PMCC) Portal in Spanish language for mutual learning and exchange of information on climate change, among municipalities in Mexico.
- Furthermore, we updated the publication database on energypedia with over 165 latest energy [publications](#). Users can [browse through the 54 most relevant energy access publications of 2019!](#)

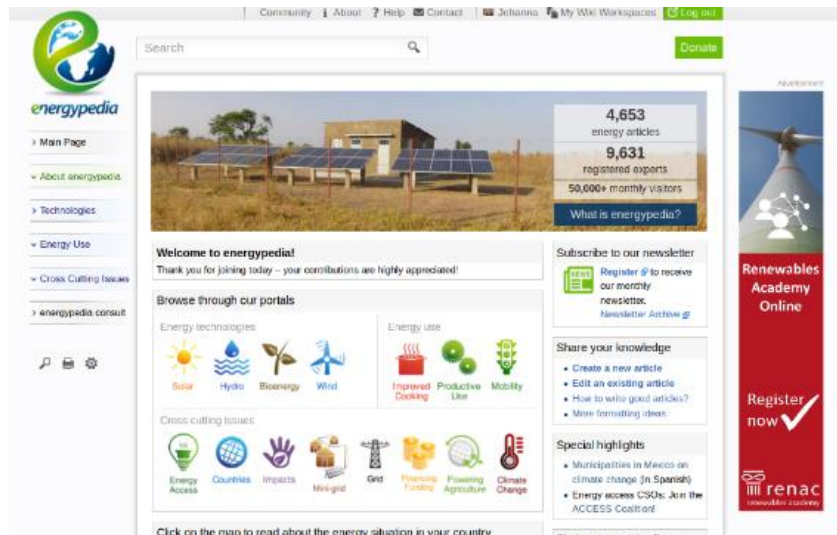
Publication database in 2019: Browse by Theme/Topic

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| • Bioenergy (14) | • Grid (16) | • Mobility (1) | • Solar (42) |
| • Climate Change (49) | • Hydropower (7) | • Powering Agriculture (15) | • Wind (8) |
| • Energy Efficiency (34) | • Impacts (15) | • Policy & Regulation (0) | • Other (71) |
| • Energy Access (54) | • Improved Cookstoves (19) / Cooking Energy (9) | • Productive Use (15) | |
| • Financing & Business Models (58) | • Mini-grid (23) | • Renewable Energy (104) | |

3.6.e Secure Funding in 2019

In 2019, we could rely on grants from GIZ and energypedia consult GmbH. We tried to secure more funding for 2020 via the Schmitz-Stiftung which unfortunately did not materialize. However, we managed to get a budget from the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Webinar Series on energy in humanitarian sector.

In order to diversify our funding, we allowed advertisement banners on energypedia.info for the first time, in 2018. In 2019, RENAC compensated us for posting a banner about their courses on energypedia as well as a newspiece on our monthly newsletter. The banner was displayed on the right side of the page from Feb-May. Ecoligo platform also supported us with a promotion of 1% if people purchased on their platform via energypedia. However, this did not yet materialize in 2019. Therefore, allowing advertisements on energypedia was a successful strategy and we want to continue it in 2020. Of course, we will make sure to undoubtedly separate content from advertisement and mark advertisement clearly.



4. Planning and Forecast

4.1 Planning and targets

For 2020, we set the following targets:

- To keep the level of 60,000 unique visitors as occurred in 2019
- To keep on increasing the participation of users from around the world and encourage them to become active contributors of knowledge
- To increase the number and quality of articles (as a result of getting more people actively involved) and include more video material into the articles.
- To secure funding in and beyond 2020, also for an IT update of the software.

4.2 Influence factors: chances and risks

In September 2015, the UN Summit for Sustainable Development adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and agreed upon 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.¹⁴ With SDG 7, energy is finally being recognized as a key enabler for development. Universal access to energy, a higher share of renewable energy and massive improvements in energy efficiency are now part of the top global priorities for sustainable development in the years to come. Therefore, the framework conditions for an independent knowledge and experience platform on renewables, efficiency and energy access are quite good in terms of the relevance of the topic.

At the same time however, knowledge exchange is not necessarily an attractive topic, which donors or other stakeholders would be eager to finance. Experiences from previous years show that if they invest funds in this area, they would rather build up their own new platform, in order to raise their public profile and not financing an independent platform, which is open to all stakeholders in the area. Therefore, raising funds is, and will probably remain, one of our biggest challenges.

¹⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

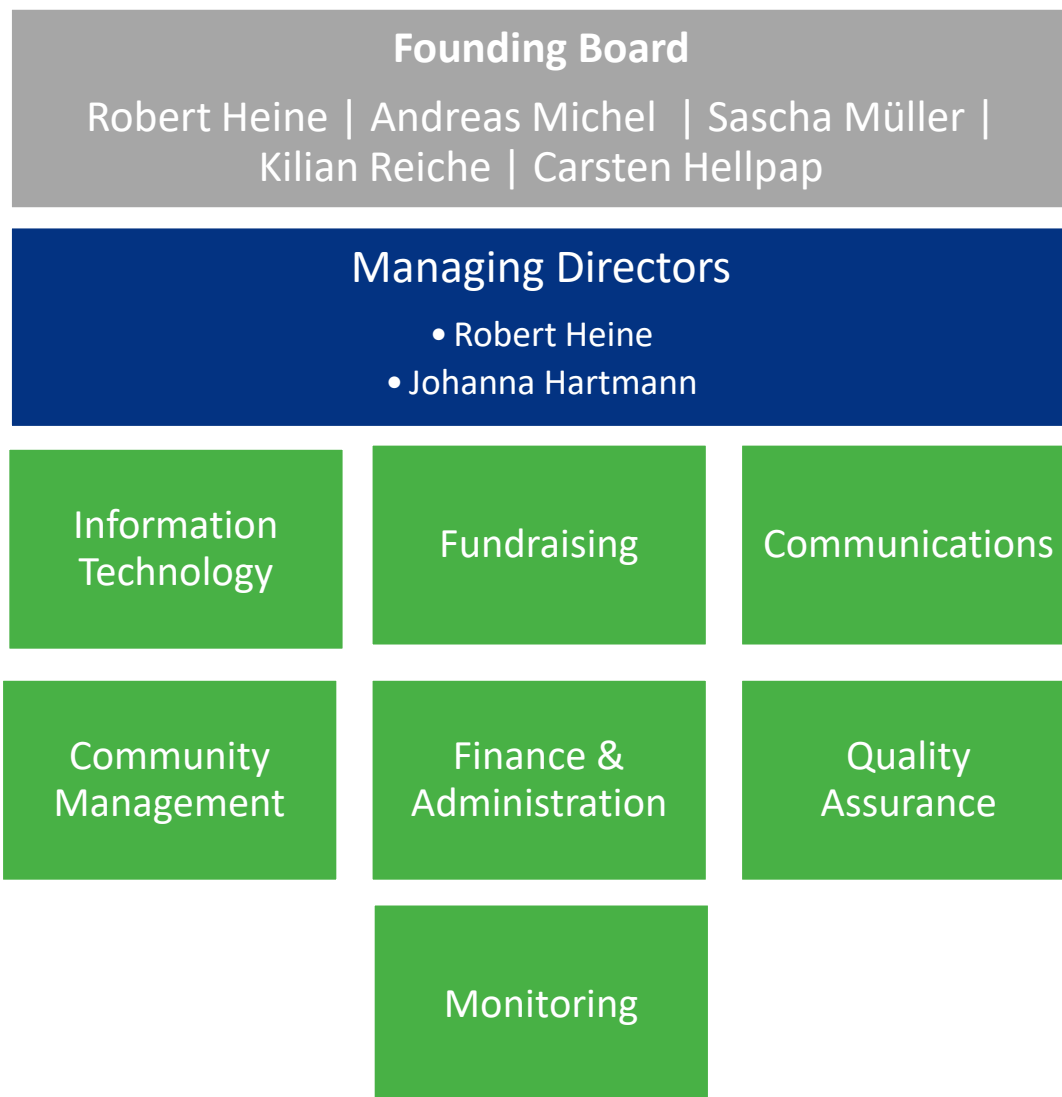
5. Organisational Structure and Team

5.1 Organisational structure

The energypedia nonprofit UG (haftungsbeschränkt) team consists of a young and committed group of founding partners and members. It was founded in 2011 by four shareholders: Andreas Michel, Sascha Müller, Kilian Reiche and Robert Heine. Since 2012, the team is operating the platform energypedia.info. In December 2019, Carsten Hellpap joined as a fifth shareholder.

For more information on the organization's profile, see chapter 6 of this report.

In 2019, energypedia UG had 7 employees (part-time or freelancer). The illustration shows the different sections or task areas.



5.2 Introduction of the participating individuals



Hector Alfaro works part time and supports the team in all questions regarding user registration and support up until mid-2019.



Ranisha Basnet joined energypedia in spring 2014. She is the main person for running energypedia, taking care of all platform and user relevant issues. She is responsible for community management, social media, monitoring, and partnerships and cooperation.



Ahmed El-Sherbini joined as intern/working student with energypedia UG.



Lisa Feldmann has been part of the energypedia team since its beginnings in 2012, when she managed the whole start-up phase. On a part time basis, she is responsible for public relations, renewable energy technologies, and quality issues.



Johanna Hartmann joined energypedia as energy expert. She is responsible for setting up the expert questions and answer service. Since 2019, she acts as one of the managing director of energypedia.



Robert Heine is a managing director of energypedia. Being one of the developers of energypedia within GIZ, he later became a founding shareholder when energypedia was established as an independent organization. In 2013, he quit GIZ and became the managing director of energypedia. His main responsibilities are finance and administration as well as information technology. He is acting on a freelance basis.

Tom Schulz

Tom Schulz joined energypedia in 2018 to assist with the process of an updated IT software up until mid-2019.

5.3 Partnerships, cooperation and networks

This year we signed the following partnerships and joined the following networks or initiatives to support international efforts to achieving energy access for all:

- Rainforest Partnership: We joined the partnership to consolidate our efforts to promote topics related to the rainforest-energy access.
- Along with The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we organized four webinars on Sustainable Energy in Humanitarian Settings to raise awareness and spread knowledge about different technologies, best practices and impacts in the humanitarian setting.

Ongoing cooperation and partnerships include the following organizations, programs and institutions:

ACCESS coalition

The ACCESS coalition consists of a range of civil society organisations (CSOs), both international and national working to deliver universal energy access, particularly within Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) implementation and other global energy initiatives.

Efficiency for Access

Efficiency for Access is a coalition promoting energy efficiency as a potent catalyst in global clean energy access efforts. Coalition programmes aim to scale up markets and reduce prices for super-efficient, off- and weak-grid appropriate products, support technological innovation, and improve sector coordination.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Energypedia works closely together with the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#) where the concept of energypedia was initially developed. In particular, we cooperate(d) with EnDev (Energising Development Partnership) in promoting access to renewable energy and their sustainable and efficient use. Thanks to the grant from GIZ, we were able to further promote the questions&answer solutions to our users and provide content on energypedia.

Energising Development (EnDev)

[EnDev](#) is an impact-oriented initiative between the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Australia, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. EnDev promotes the supply of modern energy technologies to households and small-scale businesses. The Partnership cooperates with 24 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Since its start in 2005, EnDev has taken a leading role in promoting access to sustainable energy for all. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) acts as lead agency for the implementation of the Energising Development partnership.

Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and others

We partner with the [Energy Sector Management Assistance Program \(ESMAP\)](#) and the [Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Resource Center \(PPPIRC\)](#) of the World Bank, [reep](#), [OpenEI](#), [Wuppertal Institute](#) and [Natural Resources Canada](#) to host the [Clean Energy Project Resource Center](#) on energypedia.info. This database offers project-relevant renewable energy and energy efficiency documents to the global energy community. It includes sample Terms of Reference, examples of Economic and Financial Analysis, sample Legal & Procurement Documents, Case Studies with analysis of success factors lessons learned, and more.

Hydro Empowerment Network (HPNET) in South and Southeast Asia

Together with the [Hydro Empowerment Network](#) (HPNET), we created the Micro-Hydro Library, which enables users to upload publications and documents on micro hydro topics. We furthermore cooperate in general to exchange and spread information on micro hydro energy, e.g. via webinars.

Read [here](#) more about our partnerships, networks and cooperation partners.

6. Organisational Profile

6.1 General information about the organization

Energypedia is an organization based in Germany. Its official legal form is “Unternehmergesellschaft (haftungsbeschränkt)” which is comparable with the British Limited Company (Ltd.). Due to energypedia’s activities in promoting development cooperation through knowledge and technology transfer, it has been recognized by German tax authorities as a nonprofit organization. As a result, while energypedia is organized as a company, it follows non-profit goals. Our main focus is on running the platform energypedia.info.

The energypedia wiki was developed within the Energising Development Programme (EnDev), a joint impact-oriented global program of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Australia, United Kingdom and Switzerland, with additional co-funding from Ireland and the European Union. EnDev is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Serving as an internal tool for knowledge management in the beginning, it went public in 2011 and was outsourced in 2012 and handed over to energypedia UG.

Organization name	energypedia UG (haftungsbeschränkt)
Organization location	König-Adolf-Str. 12, 65191 Wiesbaden, Germany
Organization Founding	2011
Further branches	-
Legal form	Gemeinnützige Unternehmergesellschaft (haftungsbeschränkt)
Contact details	König-Adolf-Str. 12, 65191 Wiesbaden, Germany Phone +4961118195032 info@energypedia.info www.energypedia.info
Link to Articles of Association (URL)	energypedia’s charter can be read here: https://energypedia.info/wiki/Energypedia - Charter
Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • court of registry • registration number • date of registration 	Frankfurt HRB 96064 22.11.2011
Charity or non-profit organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest acknowledgment or confirmation of tax exemption by the relevant authority • Issuing authority • Statement of non-profit purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26.10.2018 • Finanzamt Wiesbaden I • Promotion of development cooperation; Promotion of science and research

Employee headcount	2019
Total number of workers	7
thereof on full-time basis	0
thereof on part-time basis	5 (50% contract: 1 and since mid-2019, mini-jobs: 4)
thereof on freelance basis	2
thereof on voluntary basis	*

*we do not have official volunteers but all registered authors contribute voluntarily to the content on energypedia. In 2019, we had 9,920 registered users, out of this group an average of 37 were contributing voluntarily every month.

6.2 Governance of the organization

Management

Managing director of energypedia are Robert Heine and since 2019 Johanna Hartmann. The managing directors have been appointed by energypedia's shareholders. The managing directors are responsible for the operational implementation of strategic decisions, personnel, and organizing the day-to-day business. They act as the representative of energypedia in all affairs.

Conflicts of interests

Robert Heine is both, shareholder and managing director of energypedia. However, he does not hold 49% of energypedia's shares anymore but merely 38% and thus has a voting power of 38%. For most decisions, a simple majority is needed. For very relevant decisions (e.g. liquidation of the company, increase in capital stock etc.) a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of votes is necessary. This means that the power of Robert Heine being both shareholder and managing director at the same time is limited, reducing the probability of potential conflicts of interest.

Internal control systems

Our controlling is done every month based on the business assessment provided by our tax consultant. Additionally, an internal liquidity management system is used for calculations and projections of expenditures and earnings. This is carried out by the managing director.

Monitoring data on the use of our internet platform is collected on a monthly basis. In weekly meetings, activities and achieved results are discussed within the team.

6.3 Ownership structure, memberships and associated organizations

Ownership structure of the organization

Energypedia has five shareholders:

Robert Heine	38%
Andreas Michel	30%
Sascha Müller	15%
Carsten Hellpap	10%
Kilian Reiche	7%

Voting power: each Euro is equivalent to one vote.

The shareholders act on a voluntary basis. Generally, they meet once a year for a general shareholder meeting where they formally approve the actions of the managing directors and get informed about the annual financial report and activities carried out during the last year. Furthermore, they discuss strategic issues and take decisions, which have to be implemented by the managing directors. Further meetings are organized if necessary.

Associated organizations

Energypedia holds 49% of the shares in energypedia consult GmbH, a commercial subsidiary which offers IT solutions for web based monitoring, knowledge and project management in the field of development cooperation. Voting rights: 49%. Energypedia is sharing its offices with energypedia consult.

6.4 Environmental and social profile

Energypedia is not only carrying the idea of renewable energy and energy efficiency but also doing its best to implement the idea of green thinking into the daily working live. We are aware of our own responsibility regarding ecological sustainability. Thus, energypedia tries to minimize its ecological footprint as far as possible. This includes:

- most of our furniture is second-hand
- we only order office materials from an eco-friendly supplying company
- we only buy recycled printing paper and print as little as possible
- all materials like factsheets, flyers and business cards are printed with high ecologic standards. We commission only printing companies using recycled paper, electricity from renewable energy and compensate CO₂ emissions.
- within Germany we travel by train only and for international flights we compensate our CO₂ footprint
- our server is running on “green power”, meaning we don’t use electricity from nuclear power or coal plantations
- we don’t have a company car
- we switch off electrical devices before going home
- our office used eco-friendly electricity supply from renewable resources.

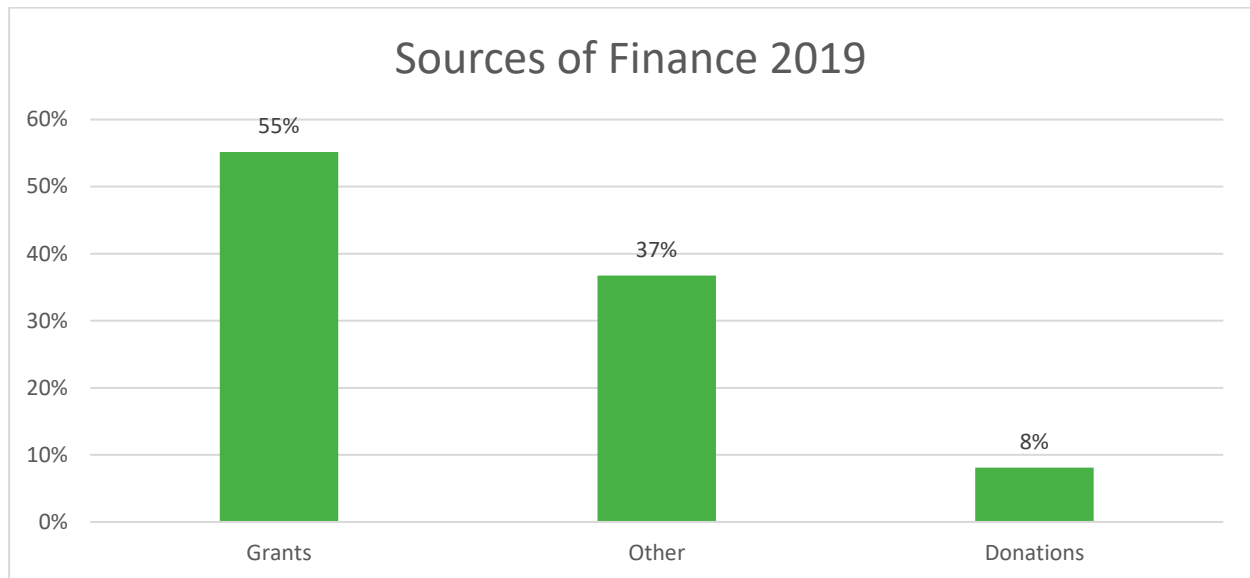
Energypedia considers itself a responsible organization also with regard to its employees. Our social profile entails:

- flexible working times
- flexible home office days
- overtime can be balanced out with free time
- educational leaves and trainings are supported
- annual appraisal interviews
- highly participatory approach: most decisions are taken within the team
- “open-door-policy” of the managing director
- diverse team of males and females, from Germany, Mexico, Egypt, and Nepal.

7. Finance and Accounting Practices

Energypedia UG is a nonprofit company financed by grants from implementing organizations and foundations, own business operations and donations from private individuals and companies.

In 2019, energypedia had a total income of 77,950 Euros. We incurred expenses of 73,850 Euros.



*Other includes loans and business operations

In determining the advertising and administrative costs, we followed the guidelines of the [German Central Institute for Social Issues \(DZI\)](#). Due to the size of our organization, we have used careful estimates. The sum of advertising and administrative costs should not exceed 30 percent of an organization's total expenditure. Here we are well below this with 10.5% in 2019. However, we would like to point out that fundraising activities in particular are of great importance to energypedia. Furthermore, we are very grateful our subsidiary energypedia consult GmbH allows us to use various technologies.

7.1 Bookkeeping and accounting

Double-entry bookkeeping and accounting is done by an external tax advisory and accounting firm, Dr. Christian Gastl in Wiesbaden. This firm is also creating the annual financial statement, which follows the rules of German Commercial Code (HGB) with special regards to §§ 266 and 275 HGB.

7.2 Financial situation and planning

It remains crucial to increase the amount of donations and to diversify the origin of our grants. Finding more donors who are willing to give us grants to support knowledge and experience exchange on energy access in developing countries is important to decrease dependency. Our plan for 2020 is to raise new funds for webinars, and to increase the donations from private persons as well as from companies.

7.2 Activities and Balance Sheet for 2019

Statement of Activities (all amounts in Euros)

Revenue	
Grants	43,000.00
Revenues 19% turnover tax	24,500.00
Revenues 7% turnover tax	82.01
Total revenue	67,582.01
Other Earnings	
Income from disposal of assets and added assets	0.00
Income from reversal of provisions for liabilities	0.00
Donations	6,314.78
Reimbursements	0.00
Other	0.00
Total other earnings	6,314.78
Material Costs	
Cost of raw materials, consumables and supplies and of purchased merchandise	255.39
Cost of purchased services	97.50
Total Material Costs	352.89
Personnel Expenses	
Salaries and wages	53,911.00
Social contributions	11,601.49
Total personnel expenses	65,512.49
Depreciation	75.00
Operating Expenses	
Occupancy costs	1,010.00
Promotion cost	2.66
Travel costs	373.43
Operating expenses	6,417.09
Other expenses	42.10
Total operating expenses	7,845.28
Earnings from shares in affiliated companies	
Interests paid	74.26
Result from ordinary operations = Annual net income (taxes = 0)	4,089.23
Profit Carried Forward	-2,803.50
Balance Sheet Profit	1,285.73

Balance Sheet (all amounts in Euros)

Assets	
Fixed assets	
Furniture and fittings	386.50
Shareholdings (49% energypedia consult)	23,030.00
Total fixed assets	23,416.50
Current Assets	
Liquid assets	545.29
Other Assets	1,646.17
Total current assets	
Deferred expenses and accrued income	
Total assets	49,024.46
Liabilities, owners' equity and reserves	
Owners' equity	
Capital stock	7,000.00
Retained profit	6,826.66
Balance sheet profit	1,285.73
Total owners' equity	15,112.39
Reserves	
Accrued taxes	247.00
Other reserves	2,850.00
Liabilities	
Trade payables	752.18
Other liabilities	7,372.39
Total liabilities, owners' equity and reserves	26,333.96

Imprint

Published by

energypedia UG (haftungsbeschränkt)

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Managing directors

Robert Heine and Johanna Hartmann

Place and date of publication

Wiesbaden, October 2020